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1920

Annual Report

(DEPENDENT
AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN)

ALBERTA

✓
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRINTED BY THE DIRECTION OF THE
HONOURABLE J. R. BOYLE, ATTORNEY GENERAL

Neglected Children



K. C. McLEOD

EDMONTON

SUPERINTENDENT

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

NEGLECTED CHILDREN

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL


1920



EDMONTON

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA, MARCH 4th, 1921.

TO THE HONORABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA,
Parliament Buildings.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith the Twelfth Annual Report of this branch of your Department, working within the provisions of *The Children's Protection Act of Alberta*, *The Juvenile Courts Act of Alberta*, *The Dominion Delinquents Act*, and *The Mothers' Allowance Act*.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

K. C. McLEOD,

Superintendent.

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AN APPRECIATION

As a new incumbent of the office, I desire first to express to you, Sir, the appreciation I have for the Staff of this Department. Each and every one in the employ of the Department is painstaking and efficient in the work that he or she has in hand.

I know the rest of the Staff will pardon the singling out of one person, for I feel that special mention should be made of Mr. Tucker; his long experience in the Department, in police work, and in general court procedure, eminently qualify him for the duties of his office.

The Inspectors, too, discharge very responsible duties; they must fill the offices of detective, process issuer, prosecutor and executive police officer, together with the making of reports and recommendations upon which decisions are based.

The office staff have nearly ten thousand files, many of which have to be consulted every day before answers can be given to the numerous letters that arrive daily. Besides this, over three hundred thousand dollars is handled yearly with a minimum of errors.

To the efficiency of the Staff is due the measure of success that attends this Department. The Official Guardian has also asked that the Staff of this Department be thanked on his behalf for investigating, and making reports to him on estates, claimants, and the various other matters committed to his trust.

TOTAL MILEAGE COVERED BY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR

By rail	84,445
By trail	19,723

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES INVESTIGATED

Children's Protection Act and Juvenile Delinquents Act	771
Mothers' Allowance Act	439
For Official Guardian	63
Number of Children's Boarding Homes inspected	54

Besides the above, there were 600 cases investigated that were not brought into court. These cases consisted of family troubles, delinquencies, etc., which the Inspectors were able to adjust satisfactorily.

THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The work of this Department is very varied. The Government of the Province desires that every child in Alberta should be able to grow up so that he or she shall be a desirable citizen, and able to discharge creditably, the responsible duties of citizenship.

The commonest source of difficulty is the Home. If parents would do as they should the children would be a pleasure to them, and no trouble to any one else. Remembering this, every effort is put forth to bring parents to a consciousness of their duty. It is greatly to the credit of our Inspectors and Probation Officers, that many homes, which otherwise would be wrecked, are kept together, and by similar means, many children that would otherwise be on our hands remain in improved homes, with parents made happy again in a re-united household.

Where death has removed the father, the Government assists the mother—if she needs it—to keep her family together by a payment under the Mothers' Allowance Act. When the mother of the family dies, it is often more difficult to keep the family together, especially if they are young. The many homes for motherless children in the Province are full of little ones, whose fathers are trying to keep their children together and "carry on," at the farm, in the shop, or in the mine.

It has been learned that the misconduct of children is not always criminal, but often the result of irrepressible and irresponsible childhood. Some of the worst boys make the best of men. For this reason, the probation system has been very largely adopted, and is proving satisfactory. Our aim then, is not to punish, but to correct, if possible. Out of several hundred cases of delinquency dealt with only about two dozen were sent to a Reform School.

Our Inspectors and interested neighbors, have brought to the attention of the Department, many cases of blindness, deafness, deformity, cruelty, truancy, etc. Because we are not charged with the care of some of these classes, we send them to the proper authorities, and deal with the others ourselves. We, therefore, desire to thank the other Departments of the Government for their kindly co-operation with us in every case where we have to work together.

The task before us is very large, very varied, and very intricate, but the best endeavors of the Department will be given to the work, conscientiously, but firmly.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCE

In the administration of the Mothers' Allowances, we believe we are not yet at the normal level. The yearly increase may continue about the same as now, but we have not yet begun a normal rate of decrease, because we have not yet begun to drop from the list those whose dependent children have reached maturity. The normal level will, therefore, be higher than at present.

There is still a discrepancy between the awards made to widowed mothers in similar circumstances, but in different parts of the province. Some Inspectors try to see how much they can get for the dependent children. Others try to see how much they can save their municipality.

We would very much like to hold a conference early this summer, at which our work could be the better co-ordinated; we feel that the work could be done more systematically and more equitably. To this conference we purpose inviting representatives of the other western provinces, that we may profit by their experience.

THE MOTHERS' ALLOWANCE ACT.

Number of mothers assisted under the above act during the year 1920	493
Number of dependent children assisted	1,502
Total amount paid for December	\$16,111.80

Number of mothers assisted in each City, Town and Rural Municipality—

Cities

Edmonton	83	Gleichen	1
Calgary	112	Grouard	1
Lethbridge	37	Hanna	1
Medicine Hat	13	Irvine	1
Wetaskiwin	1	Innisfail	1
Red Deer	2	Lacombe	1

Towns

Athabasca	3	Leduc	2
Blairmore	3	Macleod	2
Bassano	1	Magrath	7
Beverly	1	Olds	2
Cardston	1	Pincher Creek	1
Castor	1	Raymond	8
Carmangay	1	Red Cliff	4
Coleman	5	St. Albert	1
Daysland	1	Stettler	1
Didsbury	1	Tofield	1
Drumheller	4	Vegreville	1
Edson	1	Villages	18
		Unorganized	66
		Municipalities	102
		Total	493

NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Children become dependent chiefly because they are orphans, deserted, or born out of wedlock. They become neglected because of the debauchery or aimlessness of parents; the lack of home life; the ignorance and indifference of fathers and mothers. The number of children being made wards of the Department every year, is a serious comment on the need of bringing parents to a sense of duty towards children, responsibility for their support and development, until they arrive at the age of judgment and responsibility when they are sufficiently matured to be independent.

During the year the total number of cases brought before the Juvenile Court were 863. Out of this number, 466 were neglected and 397 delinquents. Out of the 466 charged with being neglected children, 356 were made wards of the Department, the balance were placed under supervision. Of the 356 children made wards of the Department, 118 were illegitimate.

STATISTICS RE DEPENDENTS

Number dealt with ----- 1286

Sex of Dependents

Male -----	592	Under 8 years -----	46
Female -----	643	“ 9 “ -----	53
	<u>94</u>	“ 10 “ -----	67
	1286	“ 11 “ -----	79
		“ 12 “ -----	62
		“ 13 “ -----	79
		“ 14 “ -----	90
Age of Dependents		“ 15 “ -----	121
Under 1 years -----	239	“ 16 “ -----	112
“ 2 “ -----	42	“ 17 “ -----	57
“ 3 “ -----	49	“ 18 “ -----	7
“ 4 “ -----	45		
“ 5 “ -----	51		
“ 6 “ -----	47		
“ 7 “ -----	40		
			<u>1286</u>

Religion of Dependents

Church of England -----	143	Christian -----	3
Roman Catholic -----	331	Episcopal -----	3
Protestant -----	358	Mormon -----	5
Presbyterian -----	154	Greek Orthodox -----	43
Methodist -----	86	Greek Catholic -----	16
Baptist -----	43	Union Church -----	2
Lutherian -----	74	Salvation Army -----	14
Ukrainian Catholic -----	2		
Hebrew -----	2		
Seventh Day Adventist -----	7		
			<u>1286</u>

Nationality of Dependents

Canadian -----	498	Swedish -----	11
English -----	124	Bohemian -----	18
American -----	142	Danish -----	5
French -----	4	Ruthenian -----	11
Ukrainian -----	5	Russian -----	95
Norwegian -----	18	Galician -----	15
Halfbreed -----	49	Hebrew -----	3
Slav -----	2	Pole -----	11
French Canadian -----	34	Italian -----	19
Scotch -----	75	Dutch -----	5
Irish -----	14	Indian -----	1
German -----	61	Chinese -----	2
Roumanian -----	1	Finlander -----	1
Negro -----	1	Hungarian -----	1
Belgian -----	3		
Welsh -----	5		1286
Austrian -----	62		

Placing of Dependents

Adopted -----	259	Married -----	5
Placed for work -----	267	In hospital -----	48
Returned to relatives -----	397	In shelter -----	118
Placed in Protestant Institutions -----	90	Outside shelter -----	11
Placed in Catholic Institutions -----	35	Deported -----	1
Died -----	35	Home for Defectives -----	1
Ran away -----	18	Outside Province -----	1
			1286

Dependents From Electoral Districts

Edmonton -----	405	Olds -----	4
Calgary -----	321	Ponoka -----	4
Medicine Hat -----	69	Didsbury -----	14
Lethbridge -----	39	Redcliffe -----	10
Stony Plain -----	17	Sedgewick -----	14
Cardston -----	10	Coronation -----	2
Lacombe -----	19	St. Albert -----	6
Grouard -----	5	Red Deer -----	18
St. Paul des Metis -----	3	Sturgeon -----	12
Peace River -----	9	Nanton -----	2
Wetaskiwin -----	6	Pincher Creek -----	21
Innisfail -----	17	Ribstone -----	6
Outside Province -----	27	Gleichen -----	6
Camrose -----	16	Alexandra -----	4
Vermilion -----	32	Athabasca -----	4
Vegreville -----	16	Strathcona -----	2
Stettler -----	9	Hand Hills -----	16
Bow Island -----	6	Beaver River -----	15
Acadia -----	7	Edson -----	6
Wainwright -----	12	Leduc -----	20
Victoria -----	15	Pembina -----	13
Grande Prairie -----	8	Lac Ste. Anne -----	11
Rocky Mountain House -----	1	High River -----	1
Taber -----	4		
Cochrane -----	1		1286

Dependents Placed Out in Electoral Districts

Edmonton -----	444	Taber -----	2
Calgary -----	326	Nanton -----	7
Lethbridge -----	32	Pincher Creek -----	2
Medicine Hat -----	68	Ribstone -----	1
Victoria -----	5	Vermilion -----	7
Redcliffe -----	8	Vegreville -----	16
Sedgewick -----	14	Didsbury -----	7
Cardston -----	6	Hand Hills -----	6
Okotoks -----	1	Gleichen -----	12
Wetaskiwin -----	6	St. Albert -----	14
Innisfail -----	3	Sturgeon -----	16
High River -----	3	Pembina -----	21
Beaver River -----	4	Stettler -----	6
Edson -----	7	Red Deer -----	16
Strathcona -----	6	Rocky Mountain House -----	9
Bow Island -----	2	Leduc -----	9
Grande Prairie -----	5	Lacombe -----	4
Little Bow -----	1	St. Paul -----	5
Cochrane -----	3	Bow Valley -----	8
Olds -----	3	Acadia -----	7
Coronation -----	5	Grouard -----	9
Camrose -----	29		
Outside Province -----	118		1286
Athabasca -----	3		

DELINQUENT CHILDREN

Children are not born bad. Their growing minds and characters are made out of the minds and characters around them. In practically every case of delinquency with which this Department has to deal, the cause is to be found in the home. There is so little home life now, especially in the cities. Parents and children live in the places of amusement, or in their cars, and the home is deserted, and physical and mental development are neglected. We are not tabooing amusement, or fresh air, but suggesting that children be brought up to find fresh air and pleasure in doing things that are useful to mind and body.

A glance at the offences show, that by far the greatest number are theft, house-breaking, or the desire to have. The desire is perfectly normal, and a boy is not necessarily a criminal because that desire does not, at the first, work in league with his conscience.

Another common cause of trouble in the destiny of children is the leaving of them or the putting of them in callings for which they are not fitted. As surely as this happens, they will become discontented and unhappy; sooner or later breaking out in mischief of some sort when young, and later becoming a charge on the state. Parents should respect their children, be in sympathy with them, and try to find out the bent of their minds, and their special fitness. It may fairly be said of children, that if they get a chance, they will make good; their future, then, very largely lies in the hands of their parents.

It is not our desire as a Department to be vindictive or vengeful. Quite the reverse, we desire only the good of the child. In seeking for this good, we are always glad to receive suggestions, advice, and help, from any source, at the same time we must not forget that firmness is an ingredient of fairness.

STATISTICS RE DELINQUENTS

Number dealt with -----	397
Male -----	367
Female -----	30
	<hr/>
	397

Age of Delinquents

Six -----	2	Fourteen -----	68
Seven -----	4	Fifteen -----	71
Eight -----	6	Sixteen -----	32
Nine -----	15	Seventeen -----	3
Ten -----	24	Eighteen -----	1
Eleven -----	23		<hr/>
Twelve -----	74		397
Thirteen -----	74		

Religion of Delinquents

Church of England -----	38	Baptist -----	23
Presbyterian -----	46	Congregational -----	1
Methodist -----	37	Seventh Day Adventist -----	1
Roman Catholic -----	87	Mormon -----	8
Lutherian -----	28	Salvation Army -----	6
Hebrew -----	4	Spiritualist -----	1
Greek Catholic -----	9	Quaker -----	1
Greek Orthodox -----	25		<hr/>
Protestant -----	82		397

Nationality of Delinquents

Russian -----	27	Polish -----	3
English -----	43	Ruthenian -----	7
Canadian -----	191	Italian -----	2
American -----	38	German -----	15
Austrian -----	9	Norwegian -----	7
Jewish -----	3	French-Canadian -----	18
Irish -----	6	Slavs -----	5
Welsh -----	2	Danish -----	1
Scotch -----	17		<hr/>
French -----	2		397
Swedish -----	1		

Offences

Theft -----	217	Indecent Exposure -----	7
Theft of Auto -----	3	Selling Intoxicating Liquor --	1
Housebreaking -----	6	Writing Immoral Letters --	2
Damage to Property -----	74	Carrying Gun on Sunday -----	1
Railway By-law -----	12	Carrying Concealed Weapon -----	1
Assault -----	3	Attempted Carnal Knowledge -----	1
City By-law -----	25	Attempted Seduction -----	1
Incorrigible -----	13	Shooting out of Season -----	1
False Pretences -----	2	Starting a Fire -----	2
Immorality -----	9	Attempting to Steal -----	2
Cruelty to Animals -----	2	Receiving Stolen Goods -----	1
Embezzlement -----	1	Discharging Fire Arms -----	6
Indecent Assault -----	4		<hr/>
			397

Disposition of Delinquents

Fined -----	85	Birched -----	6
Fined and Probation -----	18	Restitution and Fined -----	3
Paid Damages -----	47	Sent to Convent -----	1
Dismissed -----	28	Fined and Warned -----	15
Suspended Sentence -----	47	Probation -----	31
Paid Damages and Probation -----	4	Remanded -----	1
Sent to Industrial School --	10	Parents under Bond -----	2
Warned -----	48	Warned and Thrashed -----	2
Sent to Country -----	3	Withdrawn -----	5
Made Wards of Department -----	20	Supervision -----	2
Social Service Home -----	1		
Provincial Jail -----	18		<hr/> 397

Calgary Delinquent cases -----	150
Edmonton Delinquent cases -----	136
Lethbridge Delinquent cases -----	6
Outside Points -----	105
	<hr/> 397

Number of Adults prosecuted for contributing to Neglect and Delinquency -----	63
---	----

JUVENILE COURT COMMISSIONERS

Town	Name
Andrew -----	Robert H. Mennie
Athabasca -----	Russell Edgar Bannerman
Biairmore -----	James W. Gresham
Bashaw -----	Alfred J. Whitby
Camrose -----	Henry Philip Foucar
Calgary -----	Alexander McTaggart
Calgary -----	J. T. McDonald
Calgary -----	T. A. P. Frost
Calgary -----	F. D. Beveridge
Calgary -----	Alice J. Jamieson
Calgary -----	Annie E. Langford
Coronation -----	Aremis Towns
Claresholm -----	William McNichol
Consort -----	Charles H. Noble
Cowley -----	A. J. Snyder
Cowley -----	D. R. McIvor
Chauvin -----	Thomas Armour
Delia -----	Archibald J. Campbell
Donalda -----	Arthur L. Harvey
Edmonton -----	Percy Henry Tucker
Edmonton -----	H. Allen Gray, D.D.
Edmonton -----	Rev. Michael Murphy
Edmonton -----	Emily F. Murphy
Fort Saskatchewan -----	John Paul
Grande Prairie -----	Alexander Forbes
Grande Prairie -----	Charles Spencer
Grouard -----	Vermer Maurice
Grouard -----	Peter Tompkins
High River -----	A. W. Hamilton Thompson
Islay -----	William B. Cairns
Innisfail -----	John D. Lauder
Innisfail -----	William C. McArthur
Irricana -----	Robert J. Fowler
Lacombe -----	Edward M. Sharpe
Lacombe -----	George Hutton
Lamont -----	Albert E. Archer
Lethbridge -----	J. D. Higinbotham
Mirror -----	Horace J. Rymer
Magrath -----	Orsin Alpin Woolley
Mannville -----	Daniel B McLean
Macleod -----	Allen B. McDonald
Medicine Hat -----	A. D. Richard
Medicine Hat -----	E. A. Bell
Nanton -----	Aaron Jessup
Olds -----	Samuel J. Craig
Peace River -----	William Minshaw
Ponoka -----	William K. Turner
Provost -----	William Hamilton
Peace River Crossing -----	George E. MacLeod
Peace River Crossing -----	James D. Jones
Peace River Crossing -----	John P. Gaudet
Red Deer -----	J. Wallace
St. Albert -----	Walter L. Viness
St. Albert -----	Edmund Poirier
St. Paul des Metis -----	Joseph E. Cloutier
Smoky Lake -----	Percy Sutton

Stony Plain -----	Murdoch McKinley
Strathmore -----	William Vickory
Strome -----	W. E. George Hunter
Sedgewick -----	James S. McDonald
Viking -----	James S. Barker
Vermilion -----	Peter B. Pilkie
Vulcan -----	William A. Schenk
Warner -----	Albert P. Veale
Wainwright -----	J. W. McQueen
Wainwright -----	Frank Lush
Youngstown -----	James Woodman

FOSTER HOMES

It has been said that a people's civilization can be measured by their interest in their children. Some of our people would be very angry should we tell them they do not love their children, but love is not only an emotion that coddles; it must be more. It must at any sacrifice and at all cost, save that child from all the evil with which it will be surrounded. To do this is the responsibility and the glory of parentage. But many parents are absorbed in themselves or else are oblivious to the destinies that are being made by their every word or action. This is the greatest source of trouble in our homes, and places the greatest number of children in the charge of this Department.

Fortunately, however, all homes are not failures. Furthermore, many of the best homes have no children, and with them we are able very happily to place the little ones committed to our care. To the foster parents of Alberta, then, we extend our hearty thanks for providing for so many children, a father's protection and a mother's love. We also hope that you are all enjoying the fact that you have saved many lives, brought happiness to many who would otherwise be pitiable, and given many little souls a chance to grow up into that better life for which their Creator intended them.

There are still, however, many little ones awaiting homes and happiness, longing for someone they may call mother, and some one in whose strength they can feel secure.

REPORT OF WOMEN OFFICERS EDMONTON AND CALGARY

K. C. McLeod, Esq.,

Superintendent Neglected Children's Department,

Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

If statistics could speak, then those figures which appear under the prosaic heading of "Investigation of Complaints," would provide romance capable of stirring every emotion and taxing the credulity of many readers, for "truth is stranger than fiction", unfortunately, the tragic cord is the most frequently struck in the majority of cases.

Investigation is the most fascinating side of probation work, for here one's chance to reform and transform begins. The process of transformation is quickly accomplished, but the former in many instances calls for time, patience and boundless faith. To a certain extent, clothes minister to the education of some of our girls. Take a girl rescued from sordid and destitute surroundings, provide her with suitable clothing—not necessarily bearing the hall-mark of fashion—and place her in a refined home, that girl's standard of self-respect and pride is perceptibly raised and the work of transformation begun.

Too often a girl's leisure is more of a problem than her work. Legitimate pleasures pall upon the mind and imagination of many. It is pathetic to note the craving for excitement, and to know that there is an utter lack of appreciation or power in themselves to create a liking for healthy recreation. Resource they do possess, but, unfortunately, not to a good end. If gymnasiums and swimming pools for girls could be made more accessible, they would help to reform a spirited girl's leisure hours. It is interesting to follow the progress of some of our older girls, who have stepped out of the rut of circumstances and attained a certain amount of success. To give an illustration of a concrete case: A girl whose early environment was probably, without exception, the worst known to the Department, her mother a prostitute; father morally degenerate; the atmosphere of the home beyond description. The child was removed from these surroundings, and for several years did not seem very promising, then, after having done well for about two years, she heard from her mother and sister when nearing eighteen, and returned to them immediately on becoming of age. A very short time sufficed, however, to create a distaste to the girl's acquired refinement; and to her credit she voluntarily returned to the friends who had done so much for her. It is encouraging to note that this is not an isolated case. The case just mentioned was the product of home life and domestic training.

This, however, is not our only field of training; there are others of our promising girls engaged in stenography, while several are qualifying for nurses in our local hospitals, and at present, we have a teacher in the making. One of our Wards in the Social Service Home, Calgary, is being taught china painting, while another two are learning stenography. As far as lies in our power, we follow the natural bent of a girl's higher inclinations, and a large percentage of girls of average attainments are proving good citizens.

To the Social Service Home at Calgary, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Edmonton, and all who are interested in our girls, and contribute in any way to their reformation, we offer sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JENNIE ROBINSON,
(Mrs.) HANNAH TIERNEY,

Inspectors.

(Mrs.) M. J. MATHESON,
Probation Officer, Calgary.

EDITH NAVE,
(Mrs.) MARGARET ROSS
Probation Officers, Edmonton.

Visits to girls	475
Girls, not Wards of the Department, helped during the year	78
Places found for girls under our care	258

Besides the above, a great deal of our time is taken up shopping with the girls, and providing entertainment for them.

(Signed) MISS J. ROBINSON,
MRS. H. TIERNEY.

Inspectors.

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S AID DEPARTMENT

A. D. McDONALD
Agent

Statistics

Number of Children cared for at Shelter	590
Males	371
Females	219
	<hr/>
	590
	<hr/>
Number of Children in Shelter December, 31, 1919	43
Number of Children admitted to Shelter	198
Actual number cared for at Shelter	241
Actual number discharged from Shelter	185
Actual number placed in Foster Homes	87
Actual number returned to parents	72
Average monthly attendance at Shelter	398
Average daily attendance at Shelter	33
Number of child days at Shelter	12,139
Average daily school attendance	20

Juvenile Court and Office

Number of Court Cases	327
Number of Males	192
Number of Females	135
Number of Delinquents dealt with	150
Number of Neglected Children Cases	165
Number of Sessions of Court held	184
Number of Charges with contributing to neglect	26
Number of Children made Wards by Court's Order	87
Number of Licenses issued to Newsboys	293
Number of Visits made to homes and other places	1,982
Number of Children placed under supervision by Court's Order	39
Number of Children returned to parents or relatives	18
Number of Adults charged with contributing to delinquency	6
Number of Delinquents	150

Offences

Theft	74	Indecent exposure	7
Burglary	7	Placing obstructions on rail-	
Damage to property	20	way	5
Breach of By-laws	23	Assault	1
Vagrancy	6		<hr/>
Immorality	6		150
False pretences	1		<hr/>

Disposition of Delinquents

Restitution and Probation ..	32	Suspended Sentence	15
Made Wards	11	Committed to Industrial	
Fined	35	School	1
Probation	32		<hr/>
Dismissal	24		150

Adults		Adults	
Number Adults charged with contributing to neglect --	26	Number Adults charged with contributing to delinquency	6
Disposals		Disposals	
Number fined -----	11	Fined -----	2
Suspended sentence -----	6	Withdrawn -----	1
Dismissed -----	4	Dismissed -----	3
Withdrawn -----	5		
	<hr/> 26		<hr/> 6

Calgary Children's Aid Department,
MRS. M. J. MATHESON,
Probation Officer.

Statistics

Number of girls helped -----	136
Number of girls before a Juvenile Court -----	36
Number of girls made Wards -----	12
Wards changed -----	45
Visits to the doctor with girls -----	25
Times shopping with girls -----	29
Visits to girls placed, or in their own homes -----	237
Visits to Dance Halls, Cabarets, etc. -----	130
Visits of Investigation -----	295

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) M. J. MATHESON,
Probation Officer, Calgary.

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, LETHBRIDGE

WM. LAMB
Probation Officer

K. C. McLEOD, Esq.,
Superintendent Neglected Children's Department,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Sir,—

I beg to submit herewith the annual report of our Children's Aid Society for the year 1920.

Regular Staff

Probation Officer ----- W. Lamb
Matron ----- Miss Davey

Cases Handled by the Juvenile Court

Offences

Number made Wards of the Department -----	6
Pulling Alarm Boxes -----	1
Thefts -----	5
Children admitted to the Shelter during 1920 -----	36
Carried over from 1919 -----	6
	<hr/> 42

Disposition of Dependents

In Shelter at end of year --	6	Sent to Calgary Shelter ----	1
Found work for -----	3	Ran away from Shelter ----	1
Sent to Foster Homes -----	9	Returned to parents -----	19
Returned to Convent -----	3		

Religion

Church of England -----	4	Lutherian -----	1
Roman Catholic -----	15	Baptist -----	4
Presbyterian -----	15	Greek Catholic -----	1
Methodist -----	1		

Nationality

Canadian -----	20	American -----	4
Norwegian -----	1	Russian -----	6
English -----	4	German -----	4
Hungarian -----	1	Austrian -----	2

Ages of Children

1 year and under -----	13	10 years and under -----	3
2 years and under -----	2	11 years and under -----	2
3 years and under -----	3	12 years and under -----	2
4 years and under -----	1	13 years and under -----	1
5 years and under -----	1	15 years and under -----	3
6 years and under -----	3	17 years and under -----	3
7 years and under -----	1		
8 years and under -----	3		
9 years and under -----	1		
			<hr/> 42

I may say that we had a number of investigations before Commissioner Higinbotham where there was no charge laid; also there were three hundred and seventy-two cases handled out of Court, such as destroying property, breaking windows, and other mischief, all of which were settled satisfactorily.

It is difficult to give an adequate idea of the many problems with which we have been confronted during the past year in caring for the children who have come under our supervision. We feel that in a large measure our work has been chiefly that of assistance, and we realize the difficulty of enforcing remedial measures, most important of which is improving the home environment.

It is with evident satisfaction we note a greater interest being made manifest by the public in Child Welfare work. This is a most encouraging sign and one that is bound to have good results.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) W. LAMB,
Probation Officer.

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, MEDICINE HAT

GEO. HOWSON
Probation Officer

E. C. McLEOD, Esq.,
Superintendent Neglected Children's Department,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Sir,—

I beg to submit the following report of the work done by the Children's Aid Department, from April to December 31st, 1920:

Number of children received in the Shelter	37
Number of children in Shelter at beginning of April	7
	<hr/> 44

Number of Neglected and Dependent Children

Males	15	Females	19
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Number of Delinquent Children

Males	1	Females	3
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Disposition of Children During the Year

Returned to parents	10
Adopted	9
Placed for work	9
Placed in other ways	5

Report of Juvenile Court, April—November

Males	3	Females	4
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Offences

Theft	3
Neglected	3
Contributing to Delinquency	1
Placed on Probation	9
Restitution made	6
Property recovered	\$131.00

Cases Settled Out of Court

Damage to property	57
Immorality	7
Throwing stones and breaking windows	30
Trespassing	3
Stealing	47
Cruelty	4
Bad language	9
Child desertion	2
Violation of By-laws	33

Neglected Children	29
Throwing stones with catapult	30
Runaways	13
Contributing to Delinquency	3
	<hr/>
	267
Reconciliations effected	3

In presenting my report of the work of this Society, which I have undertaken since April, 1920, it is rather a difficult problem to give an adequate idea of the many cases which have come under my supervision. A great deal of the work, I find, has been that of giving assistance to the younger members, in trying to persuade them to do what is right. I have found the public dance halls a source of trouble, as the boys and girls get beyond their parents' control, and gather at these places.

I may say that seventy-five per cent. of the cases that I have dealt with, owe the foundation of their troubles to the home life. If something could be done to make the parents realize their responsibility to the children, and make the home what it ought to be, there would be a vast difference in the children of our country.

The need for a Provincial Detention Home for boys and girls is growing to be more of a necessity every day.

The Christmas season was suitably celebrated at the Shelter, the citizens all being very generous, and the kiddies, without exception, proclaimed it the brightest Xmas they had ever had.

Special mention should be made of the Rotarian Club, the Travelers, and other friends who contributed money, clothing, toys, books, fruit, also the Monarch Theatre for passes for our Wards to the Saturday afternoon shows. We also thank the City Police Force for their kind assistance given at all times.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) George Howson.

Probation Officer.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, EDMONTON

T. S. MAGEE

K. C. McLEOD, Esq.,
Superintendent of Neglected Children,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Sir,—

I beg to submit the Report of the work of the Children's Shelter which as usual, was very satisfactorily carried out by the matron and her staff. During the year the number of children which passed through this Institution, although not in excess of last year's record, show an increased daily attendance of 4,747 days over last year's. This is accounted for by the fact of the difficulty of finding foster homes for the little ones, consequent, I take it, on the high cost of living.

No. of admissions during the year 1920 -----	480
Daily attendances -----	18,837
Released to parents or guardians -----	228
Adopted -----	60
Placed in homes -----	96
Sent to hospital -----	1
Sent to Industrial School -----	7
Next of Kin Home -----	5
Sisters of Charity -----	6
Social Service Home -----	1
Died -----	21

The work of my assistant (Mr. Gutteridge) and myself, is represented by the subtended statistics. The obligations resting on parental shoulders are constantly becoming greater. No matter how easily these duties were fulfilled in the years that are gone, there is now grave need for exactness. The temptations confronting children are increasing daily, and parents must be watchful lest their children be led astray. There is a noticeable trend towards delinquency, traceable to the growing moral laxity that seems to pervade the entire world at present.

I wish to point out that there was nothing abnormal in the conditions found to exist among the youths of the City. However, family troubles seem somewhat on the increase and we find with the average family that it is neither sorrow nor suffering, nor even poverty, that brings about its disintegration and decay. Ill-health, lack of employment, and a constant struggle to keep want and hunger from the door, are severe trials, but in the great majority of cases these trials serve as bonds by which the members of the family are bound more closely together; family ties are seldom completely severed by such unhappy influences.

The great disintegrating factor in family life, is the loss of love. When love dies between father and mother, when love dies between children and parents, when parents scandalise their children by unseemly behaviour and constant quarrelling, when children cease to love, respect and obey their parents, then we have merely an imitation of a family, a house in which there is neither peace nor happiness, a home doomed to disintegration and decay. Delinquency on the part of children, is a natural sequence to an unhappy family life and evil home conditions. There are instances, to be sure, where children raised in the best homes have become delinquents, but such cases are naturally rare. But when home life is such that children feel at home everywhere, except with

their parents, when it causes them to long for the day that will separate them from their parents; then we have a fertile breeding ground for all manner of foolish notions of right and wrong, which soon mature into a desire for staying away from home, keeping dangerous company, of frequenting dangerous places and gratifying unhealthy appetites.

There are many agencies in a big city, which contribute to delinquency, but the most fruitful and infallible and most baneful in its evil influences, is that of the house in which love has died between father and mother, and in which children, as a consequence, have ceased to respect and obey their parents. When the temptation to evil cannot be removed, then flight from temptation is absolutely necessary. If we are to avoid evil and do good, experience has taught us, that the most successful remedy for juvenile delinquency which has been developed and matured as a result of unhappy home conditions, lies in the removal of these youthful offenders, and the placing of them under proper supervision amidst normally healthy and congenial surroundings.

I am not here referring to first offenders, nor to the casual offender, but to that unfortunate boy or girl who receives no proper guidance at home, and for whom the home atmosphere is a positive danger. To attempt the reformation of such a delinquency by the ordinary methods of probation and supervision while leaving the child in the environment of wrong-doing, is to attempt the well nigh impossible.

The conditions which I found to exist in one of the homes to which I refer, will illustrate the difficulties of handling children, of whom there were five in this home. Both parents, when I visited their home, were suffering from venereal disease; they were quarrelling, one blaming the other for the unhappy condition in which I found them. The money that should have been used for the upkeep of the home and children was being paid to doctors for treatment.

Cases Dealt With

There were 753 cases reported and inquired into during the year. The vast majority of them were dealt with out of court.

Number of Court Cases Were

Delinquencies -----	136
Neglected -----	147
Adults contributing to neglect and delinquency -----	32
Inquiries and investigations made -----	4,390

In the work amongst the girls, the lady officers have had many difficulties to contend with. The natural inclination for pleasure of all kinds, without legitimate means of obtaining such, accounts for the increased downfall of 'teen age girls. The high rate of wages paid in restaurants, cafés, etc., appeal to numerous foreign girls from outlying districts, and almost make it impossible to influence them to engage in domestic work of any kind in the safe precincts of a home. The following numbers indicate the work:

Investigations of complaints -----	765
Inquiries re Wards in Foster Homes -----	985
Supervision, etc., of Wards -----	553
Visits to Dance Halls and Homes -----	363

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) THOMAS S. MAGEE,
Superintendent of Shelter.

COMMENDABLE CHILDREN'S WORK

It is a pleasant duty to commend the interest of many persons and organizations, who have had work among the children at heart. Those that we at present think of are: Foster parents, police, medical men, juvenile court commissioners, churches, newspapers, Red Cross homes, children's homes, social service homes, Beulah home, Lacombe home, Youville convent, Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Knox Church Brotherhood of Calgary, Rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs, Elks, Masons, Knights of Columbus and others whose names do not now occur to us.

We also wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Department of Education and school inspectors throughout the province, for their kindness in visiting and supervising wards placed in foster homes in rural districts.

This varied sympathy with children's work, is evidence that our civilization is alive to the greatest problems of any age, viz: the children. All charities cannot be put into the hands of the Government. This would rob us, as a people, of our greatest chance to exercise our better natures. The great number who are taking an interest in Child Welfare, is a most hopeful sign that our people are not self-centered wholly, but have the larger human interests at heart. For this we all have reason to be thankful and look forward with hopefulness.

MAR 20 '72